

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video content transmitting system having at least one video content transmitting server and being capable of transmitting requested video contents in response to a request from any of video content play terminals connected via a network to said at least one video content transmitting server, said video content transmitting system comprising:

means for storing information of a network protocol capable of video content transmission between the video content play terminal and the video content transmitting server; and

means for determining the video content transmitting server capable of transmitting video contents to a relevant video content play terminal requesting video content transmission, in accordance with the network protocol information stored in said information storing means.

2. A video content transmitting system according to claim 1, wherein said network protocol information storing means includes a table storing a name of each network protocol capable of video content transmission between each terminal and each video content transmitting server.

3. A video content transmitting system according to claim 1, wherein:

said network includes at least a first network and a second network, in one transmission mode,

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the first network is used when a video content transmission request is transmitted to the video content transmitting system from the video content play terminal and the second network is used when the video contents are transmitted from the video content transmitting server to the video content play terminal in response to said video content transmission request; and

said video content transmitting system further comprises:

means for storing an address for identifying the video content play terminal^{44/45} issued the video content transmission request via the first network and an address for identifying the video content play terminal receiving the video contents via the second network; and

means for determining a video content destination address to which the video contents are transmitted, in accordance with the stored addresses of the video content play terminal on the first and second networks.

4. A video content transmitting system having at least one video content transmitting server and being capable of transmitting requested video contents in response to a request from any of a video content play terminals connected via a network to said at least one video content transmitting server, said video content transmitting system comprising:

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means for managing information of a total available bandwidth for video content transmission of a network route between each video content play terminal and each video content transmitting server, and information of a bandwidth now in use for the video content transmission;

bandwidth calculating means for calculating a bandwidth of the network route to be used for transmission of requested video contents; and

transmission processing means for determining the video content transmitting server capable of transmitting the requested video contents to the requested video content play terminal, in accordance with the total available bandwidth, the bandwidth now in use and the calculated bandwidth necessary for video content transmission.

5. A video content transmitting system according to claim 4, wherein said bandwidth information managing means includes a table storing information indicative of a relation between each network route, the total available bandwidth and the bandwidth now in use.

6. A video content transmitting system according to claim 4, wherein:

the network includes at least a first network and a second network, in one transmission mode, the first network is used when a video content transmission request is transmitted to the video content transmitting system from the video content play

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terminal and the second network is used when the video contents are transmitted from the video content transmitting server to the video content play terminal in response to said video content transmission request; and

said video content transmitting system further comprises:

means for storing an address for identifying the video content play terminal issued the video content transmission request via the first network and an address for identifying the video content play terminal receiving the video contents via the second network; and

means for determining a video content destination address to which the video contents are transmitted, in accordance with the stored addresses of the video content play terminal on the first and second networks.

7. A video content transmitting system having at least one video content transmitting server and being capable of transmitting requested video contents in response to a request from any of a video content play terminals connected via a network to said at least one video content transmitting server, said video content transmitting system comprising:

means for storing information of a network protocol usable for video content transmission between the video content play terminal and the video content

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transmitting terminal;

means for managing information of a total available bandwidth for video content transmission of a network route between each video content play terminal and each video content transmitting server, and information of a bandwidth now in use for the video content transmission;

bandwidth calculating means for calculating a bandwidth of the network route to be used for transmission of requested video contents; and

transmission processing means for determining the video content transmitting server capable of transmitting the requested video contents to the requested video content play terminal, in accordance with the stored network protocol information and/or in accordance with the total available bandwidth, the bandwidth now in use and the calculated bandwidth necessary for video content transmission.

8. A video content transmitting system according to claim 7, wherein:

the network includes at least a first network and a second network having a transmission bandwidth larger than a transmission bandwidth of the first network, the first network is used when a video content transmission request is transmitted to the video content transmitting system from the video content play terminal and the second network is used when the video contents are transmitted from the video content

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transmitting server to the video content play terminal in response to the video content transmission request; and

said video content transmitting system further comprises:

means for storing an address for identifying the video content play terminal issued the video content transmission request via the first network and an address for identifying the video content play terminal receiving the video contents via the second network; and

means for determining a video content destination address to which the video contents are transmitted, in accordance with the stored addresses of the video content play terminal on the first and second networks.

9. A video content transmitting method for a video content transmitting system having at least one video content transmitting server and being capable of transmitting requested video contents in response to a request from any of video content play terminals connected via a network to said at least one video content transmitting server, said video content transmitting method comprising the steps of:

preparing a table for storing information of a network protocol capable of video content transmission between the video content play terminal and the video content transmitting server; and

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determining the video content transmitting server capable of transmitting video contents to a relevant video content play terminal requesting video content transmission, in accordance with said network protocol information stored in said table.

10. A video content transmitting method for a video content transmitting system having at least one video content transmitting server and being capable of transmitting requested video contents in response to a request from any of video content play terminals connected via a network to said at least one video content transmitting server, said video content transmitting method comprising the steps of:

managing information of a total available bandwidth for video content transmission of a network route between each video content play terminal and each video content transmitting server, and information of a bandwidth now in use for video content transmission;

calculating a bandwidth of the network route to be used for transmission of requested video contents; and

determining the video content transmitting server capable of transmitting the requested video contents to the requested video content play terminal, in accordance with the total available bandwidth, the bandwidth now in use and the calculated bandwidth necessary for video content transmission.

11. A video content transmitting method for a

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video content transmitting system having at least one video content transmitting server and being capable of transmitting requested video contents in response to a request by from any of video content play terminals connected via a network to the video content transmitting server, said video content transmitting method comprising the steps of:

preparing a table for storing information of a network protocol usable for video content transmission between the video content play terminal and the video content transmitting terminal;

managing information of a total available bandwidth for video content transmission of a network route between each video content play terminal and each video content transmitting server, and information of a bandwidth now in use for video content transmission;

calculating a bandwidth of the network route to be used for transmission of requested video contents; and

determining the video content transmitting server capable of transmitting the requested video contents to the requested video content play terminal, in accordance with the stored network protocol information and/or in accordance with the total available bandwidth, the bandwidth now in use and the calculated bandwidth necessary for video content transmission.

12. A video content transmitting method according

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to claim 11, wherein said table for storing information of a network protocol usable for video content transmission between the video content play terminal and the video content transmitting terminal can change a name of a network protocol in accordance with the request by the video content play terminal and a network infrastructure.

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